

## The Story of Jesus: Joy in Heaven

(Lesson 62)

### Introduction:

1. An important admonition is given in 2 Peter 3:18 -- the Lord's followers are to grow in the knowledge of Him.
2. Jesus gave an admonition in John 5:39 that will help us to achieve this growth -- "*Search the Scriptures.*"
3. As Jesus fulfilled His ministry His primary work was teaching and preaching.
4. He often used parables to illustrate spiritual lessons.
5. In Luke 15 Jesus presented 3 parables to illustrate how joy is in heaven.
6. Before we study the Lord's parables, let us determine . . .

### Discussion:

#### I. WHY JESUS PRESENTED THESE PARABLES

- A. The situation that prompted Jesus to relate these parables is revealed in vs.1-2.
- B. Vs.1 shows how the publicans and sinners came to Jesus to hear Him.
  1. Jesus came to save such people as these (Luke 5:27-32; 19:10).
  2. Many publicans and sinners repented and became followers of Christ.
- C. Vs.2 shows how the Pharisees and scribes felt.
  1. They murmured because Jesus received sinners and ate with them.
  2. It is sad, but hypocrites have a way of trying to ruin good things that happen.
- D. To illustrate how joy is experienced in heaven when sinners come to the Lord, Jesus presented . . .

#### II. 3 PARABLES

- A. #1: "The parable of the lost sheep" (vs.3-7)
  1. Finding the lost sheep produced joy.
    - a. (vs.5) The man who owned the sheep rejoiced.
    - b. (vs.6) He called others to rejoice with him.
  2. Jesus revealed His lesson in vs.7 -- the repentance of one sinner produces joy in heaven.
- B. #2: "The parable of the lost piece of silver" (vs.8-10)
  1. Finding the lost piece of silver produced joy (vs.9).
  2. Jesus revealed His lesson in vs.10 -- the repentance of one sinner produces joy in the presence of the angels of God.
- C. #3: "The parable of the lost son" (vs.11-32)
  1. The return of the lost son produced joy (vs.22-24).
  2. Unfortunately, the older son did not rejoice (vs.25-32).
    - a. The Pharisees and scribes should have been glad when the publicans and sinners came to Jesus.
    - b. They displayed the attitude of the older son.

### Conclusion:

1. The conversion of a sinner causes joy to be experienced in heaven.
2. This should cause us to:
  - a. examine ourselves to determine if our lives are right with God
  - b. lead someone else to the Lord.